



be with you.
As the Father has
sent me,
so I send you."

John 20:21, NRSV

April 12, 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

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People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Stéphane Potvin

Laura Burton

Éric Charbonneau

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 361: “The Day of Resurrection!”

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm: 116

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn 327: “Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow”

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

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Choir Anthem: “Now the Green Blade Rises”

Alan Bullard

MEAL

Offering Hymn 182: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Offering Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

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Communion Prayer

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The Lord’s Prayer

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Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns: 487, 495

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing

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Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing

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Hymn 820: “O Saviour, Precious Saviour”

Dismissal

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Postlude

Zion Lutheran Church welcomes our **visitors and guests**. We are pleased that you have come to join us in the worship of our God of grace and love. May you be strengthened and uplifted in our time together. *Please sign our guest register and make yourself known to Pastor Jeff*. We hope that you will plan to be with us, again, at your earliest opportunity.

All people of faith and those who seek faith are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This morning, we will be distributing the Lord’s Supper in a continuous fashion. Trays holding individual cups of wine are on stands at either side of Pastor Jeff for those wishing to receive wine. **We are making available a small number of individual glasses filled with non-alcoholic white wine. These are for those not wishing to partake in the red wine containing alcohol.** The ushers will invite the congregation to come forward down the center aisle.

Please note that masks are now “optional or personal preference”. Disposable masks remain at all entrances for those wishing to continue to wear one.



THIS WEEK WE PRAY:

>for our members and friends with special needs: Lynette, Marilyn, Isabelle, Erika, David, Carol, Bev, Jim, Wayne, Matthew, Marjorie, Bill, Marie, Jamie, Marleen, Nancy, Gwen, Jim, Jack, Diane, Gloria, Kathleen, Tony, Paul, Wendy, Devon, Hollice, Maria, Tom, Marian, Leanne, Al, Brian, Paul, Nya, and Cathy;

>for those who have no one to pray for them.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

- Mon. April 13 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour
6-8 PM Girl Guides in Girl Guide Room
7:00-8:30 PM SSSYO in Fellowship Hall (LAST)
7:00 PM Choir in Chapel
- Tues. April 14 7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall
9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall
2:00 PM Greenwood Court Worship
4:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting in Parlour
- Wed. April 15 9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour
7:00 PM Congregational Council Meeting in Parlour
- Thurs. April 16 12 Noon Bible Study in Parlour
2:15 PM Knollcrest Worship
4:30 PM Confirmation in Parlour
6:30-8 PM Girl Guides in Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM Shelterlink Meeting in Parlour
- Sat. April 18 **10:00 AM Doris Lewis Visitation in Sanctuary**
11:00 AM Doris Lewis Funeral
- Sun. April 19 * **EASTER 4** *
10:00 AM Worship
10:00 Sunday School
COFFEE HOUR

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Tom & Joanne Cosstick
Usher Captain: Brian Coe
Altar: Sister Jean

Reader: Aline Kouhi-Klemencic
Counting Captain: Irene West
House of Blessing: Wayne Faulhafer



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING: The “Special Easter Offering” this year will be divided equally between Canadian Lutheran World Relief and our Current Fund. These offerings may be made up to and including Sunday, April 26th, 2026. Easter Offering envelopes are on the tables at each of the entrances. Thank you for your support!

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The Sunday School Children will be singing on Sunday, April 26th.

**A reminder to all that we are a nut-free Sunday School.
Please remember that Sunday School ends at 11:15 AM.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Parents/Grandparents: Have you registered your child(ren) or Grandchild(ren) for Sunday School? Registering them is not a commitment for them having to be here every Sunday. Registering them helps us arrange our classes and arrange for the number of teachers we need.

Children/grandchildren eligible for Sunday School include any child turning four (4) years of age in 2026 right through to children in Grade 6.

If a child(ren) has left the Sunday School program for any reason and would like to return, they are more than welcome!

It is quite easy to register them. All we require is the child(ren)’s name(s) and current grade(s) as of September 2026. You may email the information to zionluth.sscord@outlook.com.

All children/grandchildren of members need to be registered to attend Sunday School. Any visiting families with children four (4) years of age in 2026 are welcome without registering.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation.

Paula McNaughton
Sunday School Coordinator

JAZZ VESPERS: **This afternoon, Sunday, April 12th, 2026 at 4:00 PM**
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
41 Mornington Street, Stratford

Festuring:

The Jazz Combo From Stratford District Secondary School

All Welcome to this Informal Evening Worship Service

(Free Will Offering)

KAMMERCHOR LONDON'S CONCERT: Stéphane Potvin, our Minister of Music, invites you to attend Kammerchor London's concert on *April 25th* with a powerful and uplifting programme featuring Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Bach's *Cantata no 12*.

Kammerchor partners with the London Food Bank in a shared commitment to supporting members of the local community facing food insecurity. Audience members are warmly invited to bring one or more non-perishable items to the concert to help support the Food Bank's ongoing work serving those in need in the London community.

Join Kammerchor on April 25th at 7:00 P.M. at First-St. Andrew's United Church for an evening of beautiful music while helping support an important cause in our community.

Tickets \$35 (regular), \$15 (people aged 18-35), FREE (youth 17 and under).

For more information, visit kammerchor.ca or email kammerchorlondon@gmail.com. Follow Kammerchor on social media: facebook.com/Kammerchorlondon



CUPPA CANDLES: Rotary Hospice has a volunteer who makes lightly scented candles using teacups and saucers which hold the wax.

They are looking for donations of teacups and saucers to use in the making of these candles.

If you are house cleaning, downsizing or cleaning out your china cabinet and have some that you would like to donate they would be greatly appreciated.

For drop offs: Rotary Hospice is staffed 24/7 so teacups and saucers can be dropped off any time. Their address is 80 Greenwood Drive. They are located behind Greenwood Court. You have to pull in their driveway at 90 Greenwood Drive and follow it all the way around back to find them. Ring the intercom at the front door and leave the teacups and saucers with reception.

The ***CUPPA CANDLES*** are for sale at reception but they are also incorporated into their “*Care Bundles*”. A “*Care Bundle*” is given to the family after their loved one has passed, as they are leaving the hospice. The bundle also includes information from their social workers on grief and bereavement and resources to support this next step of their journey.

Rotary Hospice is very grateful for any donations you may be able to offer.



We have received a “most-needed items list” from the House of Blessing. To help them with their significant increase in the number of people using their services, as you are able, if you could bring **Toilet paper & canned fish (tuna and salmon)** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.

STRATFORD CONNECTION CENTRE: Due to overwhelming generosity, the Connection Centre is currently accepting ONLY the following items:

- * New underwear, size medium
- * Water resistant winter boots
- * Handwarmers
- * Razors and deodorant
- * Laundry soap
- * Grab & go snacks or baked goods

If you are interested in donating to the Connection Centre or Warming Centre, please note the following;

- Donations are ONLY accepted Monday to Friday, between 12:00 Noon to 4:30 PM at the Connection Centre, unless pre-arranged. You may also drop off donations at Zion in the bins at the back of the Sanctuary or inside the office entrance door.

- At this time they cannot accept anything that is not listed, they will update as their needs change!

- Supporting Goodwill and Value Village DOES support their participants. They collaborate with each other regularly to meet people's needs!

- Any donations must be functional and clean. If you wouldn't wear it then our folks shouldn't either.

- We CANNOT accept expired food, or food items past their 'best before date'

Thank you for continuing to support the Connection Centre so they can support our vulnerable neighbours! ❤️

The sandwich makers for the Connection Centre would greatly appreciate donations of food gift cards from Walmart or Food Basics. Any support you are able to provide is most welcome.

Thank You!



**MIKE & SUE WEBER
& FRIENDS**
Perform Classic Country Music



SUNDAY MAY 31ST

(2:00 – 4:30 pm)

AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

202 Erie Street, Stratford

A FUND RAISER FOR ONGOING MAINTENANCE FEES OF CHAIR LIFTS

Tickets: \$35.00

CALL: 519-271-8527

Refreshments Available

CONCERT SUNDAY, MAY 31ST: Your Congregational Life Committee is proud to host another Concert on Sunday, May 31st as a fund raiser for ongoing maintenance fees of the new chair lifts. *Mike & Sue Weber and Friends* will perform “*Classic Country Music*” from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary here at Zion. Doors will open at 1:00 PM. Tickets are \$35.00 and are available by calling the office weekday mornings at 519-271-8527. Please spread the word and come out and support your Congregational Life Committee! Thank you!